



## **NWSF CORONAVIRUS FAQs**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME DUE TO THE RAPIDLY-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT WE ARE CURRENTLY IN**

### **Can I continue to play?**

No you cannot. All NWSF football matches have been suspended until 2 May.

### **Can I continue to train?**

No you cannot. All NWSF football activities have been suspended until 14 April.

### **Am I insured if a group of us play/train/have a kick around?**

During the suspension of football period you are not covered. If you play or train and get hurt, you will need to meet your own medical expenses and/or use Medicare and/or claim via your private medical insurance.

### **What is meant by All football activities?**

- Training sessions
- Pre season friendlies/trial matches
- NWSF Competition matches
- Organised training sessions with external providers/academies/private providers
- NWSF Coach education courses
- Football Club events (muster days, grading days).
- Please note – Clubs should understand and apply the Federal Government's guidelines around number of people and safe distances (1.5m apart) when organising meetings to discuss/resolve this issue or consider alternatives such as Zoom, Skype etc

As of 18 March 2020, non-essential gatherings (which all of our events are), are limited to 100 people if it is indoors and 500 people if it is outdoors. This is subject to change by the Federal Government.

### **Who do I contact if I have further questions?**

Players should direct their questions to their club in the first instance.

### **Do clubs need to shut down their academy sessions/extra training programs/links to external providers?**

Players or registered coaches (Play Football system) are not permitted to take part in ANY FOOTBALL ACTIVITY, which includes academy programs or extra training sessions that are directly or indirectly associated to your Club. Clubs need to be vigilant in ensuring this does not take place. Your club (and the players and coaches) are affiliated to the FFA, and you are required to follow the instruction that all football activities are suspended. You, the players and coach will not be insured. The concerns



around a lack of insurance has now escalated from an exposure against injury to someone contracting COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

**What about the academy / extra training / one on one sessions some players inevitably take part in?**

If players make individual decisions to attend one on one coaching or take part in external exercise activities they need to seriously consider the ramifications for ANY player contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on the wider NWSF football community. At the moment we are hoping to return to football activities in the near future. The reality is that when we return to playing and training, if a player or coach contracts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) a series of containments and shutdowns will take place that could jeopardise on-going competition matches.

**What does this mean for our competitions structure?**

NWSF can still conduct a FULL season, with minis reduced to 16 rounds.

**Is there a cut off date where the season would be called off?**

No. NWSF is committed to providing football competitions this year. The situation is highly unpredictable and as we have seen to this time, it can change at any time.

**Will we still have semi finals / grand finals?**

Yes, although they may be amended subject to any wet weather we experience.

**What about Gala days**

Gala days are not permitted under the current Federal Government guidelines as they constitute a mass gathering and are suspended under the current suspension of all football activities.

**What happens to my registration fees?**

At this stage the suspension of football takes into account a minimal disruption. We are delaying the start of the season, not cancelling. At this stage we can run a full season so there is no basis for refunding fees.

We will also consider the broad principle of trying to ensure that all Clubs, NWSF, Football NSW and FFA are able to get through this difficult time in a position that will enable football as we know it to continue into the future. We need to make sure that when football and life in Australia returns to normal that we have a sport, clubs and an infrastructure that will allow us all to continue to play.

**What happens if I deregister?**

A player is entitled to de-register but they need to understand the following. A final decision around any refund of fees for people who deregister will be made when the clubs and NWSF know the full extent of the disruption and it will be based on the broad principle of trying to ensure that all Clubs, NWSF, Football NSW and FFA are able to get through this difficult time in a position that will enable football as we know it to continue into the future.



**What is happening to the fees that go to Football NSW and FFA?**

As you can imagine the initial concerns of the FFA and Football NSW has centred on the initial response to the actual issue. At this point in time Football NSW and FFA have not given any indication in relation to this. This will form part of the broader discussion around the viability of all levels of the game moving forward. We need to make sure that when football and life in Australia returns to normal that we have a sport, clubs and an infrastructure that will allow us all to continue to play.

**Does this include the NWSF representative teams?**

Yes the suspension applies to all football activities (except the A-League and W-League which is being played behind closed doors).

**What happens to the Active Kids voucher that was used to pay registration?**

We are currently in discussion with Football NSW and will provide updates as they are released. However, clubs are not permitted to refund the AKV under the current Government guidelines.

**I have registered for a Coach Education Course / Workshop, will they be rescheduled?**

We will endeavour to re-schedule Coach Education events once the suspension of football activities is over. Registered participants have been contacted and NWSF is currently working through the schedule to outline new dates.